

BALTIMORE SUN

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SOC 401.1 W. Germany

Stern

## Mayaguez said to hold CIA's Viet files

Bonn (Renter)—The West German weekly magazine Stern said yesterday the United States had gone to great lengths to rescue the cargo vessel Mayaguez from Cambodian forces because it was carrying containers full of top-secret intelligence data and equipment from Saigon.

In a full-page, unsigned article Stern said the Mayaguez was deliberately chosen by the

American Central Intelligence Agency to take its files from Saigon and another of its offices in South Vietnam to Thailand because of the vessel's insignificant appearance.

Also on board were all the electronic equipment, as well as radio and decoding equipment from the two former CIA offices.

Stern said that soon after the Mayaguez had been seized

by the Cambodians, and well before the U.S. use of force to recover it, American frogmen attached mines to its hull at night while it lay at anchor off Koh Tang.

In New York, the owners of the Mayaguez denied the report.